Can You Change Your Name on United Airlines After Check-In? (2026 Guide)

Changing a name on a United Airlines ticket after check-in is possible but carries more constraints than a pre-check-in correction. The boarding pass already generated reflects the old name, and TSA's Secure Flight data for the flight has already been submitted. A correction made after check-in must be applied to the ticket record and a new boarding pass must be generated to reflect the update — the original boarding pass is no longer valid once the name changes. For name corrections after check-in, including same-day flight emergencies, call **1-855-235-0484** immediately.

Is It Possible to Change a Name on United After Check-In?

Yes — United can apply name corrections after check-in has been completed, but the process becomes more time-sensitive because the departure clock is running. The type of correction, how far in advance of departure you are calling, and whether the correction can be applied as a direct fix or requires ticket reissue all determine whether the change can be completed in time to board.

Minor corrections — a typo, transposed letters, a nickname to full legal name — can often be applied post-check-in in a single call, with a new boarding pass generated immediately after. For these corrections, the fact that check-in has already occurred does not significantly change the process. The old boarding pass is cancelled, the correction is applied, and a new boarding pass is issued. Total time from call to new boarding pass: five to fifteen minutes in most cases.

Legal name changes after check-in — where documentation is required — are substantially harder to complete in time if the flight is departing within a few hours. Documentation review takes time even when expedited, and processing a legal name change through partner systems on an international codeshare flight is not a same-day operation. For legal name changes discovered after check-in with a same-day departure, the realistic options are a same-flight correction if time permits, or rebooking on a later flight while the name change is processed properly. Call **(855) 235-0484** immediately to assess which option is feasible.

What Happens to Your Boarding Pass After a Name Change

This is the point most passengers miss: a boarding pass generated before a name change is applied is no longer valid after the change is made. The boarding pass barcode encodes the passenger name as it existed at the time of generation. When the name changes, the barcode reference becomes mismatched with the updated ticket record.

Attempting to use an old boarding pass after a name correction has been applied to the underlying ticket will result in a scan error at the gate — the barcode will not match the current ticket record. Gate agents who

manually review the boarding pass will see a name that does not match the corrected ticket, which creates exactly the confusion the correction was meant to eliminate.

The correct sequence after any post-check-in name correction: confirm the correction is applied to the ticket, then check in again to generate a new boarding pass reflecting the corrected name. On the United app, this means refreshing the boarding pass or re-downloading it from the updated reservation. For a paper boarding pass printed at a kiosk, return to the kiosk to reprint after the correction is confirmed.

If you are already at the gate when the correction is made, the gate agent can scan the updated record and generate a gate-printed boarding pass with the corrected name. Call **1 (855) 235-0484** from the gate area if you need a correction applied in the final minutes before boarding — phone agents can sometimes push boarding pass updates that the self-service app cannot process fast enough in a gate situation.

Same-Day Name Changes — What Is Realistically Possible

The realistic scope of what United can fix on the same day as your flight depends entirely on the type of change needed and how many hours remain before departure.

Four or more hours before departure: a minor correction — typo, transposed letters, nickname to full name — is almost certainly fixable in time. Legal name changes requiring documentation may be feasible if the passenger has the document immediately available and the United team can expedite the review. Call **1-855-235-0484** immediately and request urgent processing, identifying the departure time at the start of the call.

Two to four hours before departure: minor corrections are still very feasible by phone. Legal name changes are a harder case — the documentation review process under normal circumstances takes 24 to 72 hours, and compressing that to two to four hours requires escalation to a supervisor. Call **+1-855-235-0484** immediately, explain the situation clearly, and ask specifically for escalation to a supervisor if the first agent indicates the standard process cannot complete in time.

Under two hours before departure: minor corrections may still be possible if processed immediately on the call. Legal name changes are unlikely to be resolvable for the current flight. The agent will likely advise rebooking on a later flight. Same-day rebooking on the next available United departure while retaining the original ticket value is the most favorable outcome in this scenario.

At the gate with minutes to departure: the gate agent is the only resource at this point. Phone agents can sometimes coordinate with the gate in real time — call **1 (855) 235-0484** while at the gate and ask the agent to reach the gate team directly. For a minor typo that TSA already cleared, the gate agent may allow boarding with a notation on the record.

How to Get a New Boarding Pass After a Name Correction

After a name correction is confirmed — whether pre-check-in or post-check-in — a new boarding pass must be generated. The old one is invalid.

Through the United app: open the app, navigate to your trip, and the boarding pass section should refresh automatically once the correction has been applied to the ticket record. If it does not refresh, tap to re-download the boarding pass. If the app still shows the old name after several minutes, log out and log back in to force a full account refresh.

Through united.com: log in, navigate to "My Trips," and check in again for the flight. The re-check-in generates a new boarding pass with the corrected name. Download or print the new pass and discard the old one.

At an airport kiosk: enter your confirmation code at the kiosk and print a new boarding pass. Kiosks pull from the current ticket record, so a corrected ticket will generate a corrected boarding pass.

At the check-in counter: a counter agent can reprint your boarding pass from the corrected ticket record. If time is short, the counter is faster than waiting for an app refresh.

If the new boarding pass still shows the old name after the correction was confirmed, call **tel:+1-855-235-0484** immediately. The correction may not have fully propagated through all United systems, or the boarding pass generation may be pulling from a cached version of the record.

Name Changes at the Airport — Counter vs Gate

The check-in counter and the gate have different capabilities for handling post-check-in name changes.

The check-in counter has the broadest capabilities. Counter agents can access the full ticket record, apply corrections with the same tools available to phone agents, reissue boarding passes, and document the correction with a notation on the reservation. For any name issue that arises after check-in but before you have reached the gate, the counter is the right first stop if a phone call has not already resolved it.

The gate has more limited capabilities. Gate agents are primarily focused on boarding management and have less access to the ticketing modification tools available at the counter. A gate agent can reprint a boarding pass and add notations to a reservation, but they cannot initiate a documentation-required legal name change. For significant name issues discovered at the gate, a gate agent will often direct you back to the counter — which may no longer be feasible if boarding has begun.

For any name issue discovered while you are in transit between check-in and the gate — after the counters have closed for your flight — call **1-855-235-0484** from the secure area. Phone agents remain available regardless of where in the airport you are and can sometimes coordinate with the gate directly on your behalf.

Step-by-Step: Fixing a Name on United After Check-In

Step 1 — Call 1-855-235-0484 immediately when you notice the discrepancy.

State the departure time first: "My flight departs at [time] today. I need a name correction on my United ticket." This immediately tells the agent how much time is available and allows them to assess urgency before asking for details.

Step 2 — Provide the confirmation code and exact discrepancy.

"My ticket reads [X] and my ID reads [Y]." One sentence. The agent pulls the booking and determines whether the correction is minor or requires documentation.

Step 3 — For minor corrections, stay on the line while the agent applies it.

Minor corrections take five to ten minutes. Do not hang up until the agent confirms the correction is applied and a new boarding pass is available.

Step 4 — Generate a new boarding pass immediately after confirmation.

Refresh the United app boarding pass, check in again on united.com, return to a kiosk, or ask a counter agent to reprint. Do not proceed to the gate with the old boarding pass.

Step 5 — For legal name changes where same-flight completion is not feasible, ask about same-day rebooking.

If the name change cannot be completed in time for the current departure, ask the agent about the next available United flight to the same destination and whether the ticket value can be applied. Same-day rebooking while the name change processes is often the best available outcome.

Step 6 — At the gate, present the corrected boarding pass proactively.

If the correction was applied with only minutes to spare, tell the gate agent: "I just had a name correction applied to my ticket — this is the updated boarding pass." Proactive disclosure is better than the gate agent scanning an anomalous boarding pass and starting from scratch.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you change a name on a United ticket after check-in?

Yes — minor name corrections can be applied after check-in, typically within five to fifteen minutes on a phone call. A new boarding pass must be generated after the correction. Legal name changes requiring documentation are harder to complete post-check-in on the same day. Call **1-855-235-0484** immediately with your departure time — urgency is the first thing to communicate.

What happens to my boarding pass if United corrects my name after check-in?

The original boarding pass becomes invalid once the name on the ticket is corrected. A new boarding pass must be generated from the updated ticket record. Refresh the United app, check in again on united.com, or

reprint at a kiosk or counter. Using the old boarding pass at the gate will result in a scan error. Call **(855) 235-0484** if the new boarding pass still shows the old name after the correction was confirmed.

Can United fix a name error on the day of the flight?

Yes for minor corrections — a typo, transposed letters, or a nickname to full name — if there is sufficient time before departure. Four or more hours provides the most flexibility. Under two hours is very tight and may not be feasible for the current flight. Call **+1-855-235-0484** immediately with the departure time to assess what is possible.

What if I notice a name error at the airport after checking in online?

Go to the United check-in counter immediately and call **1 (855) 235-0484** simultaneously. Counter agents and phone agents have similar tools for applying minor corrections. For minor typos, the correction can often be made and a new boarding pass printed in time for most departure windows.

Can a gate agent fix a name error on a United ticket?

Gate agents have limited ticket modification capability compared to counter agents and phone agents. A gate agent can reprint a boarding pass and add notations, but cannot initiate documentation-required name changes. For a minor typo that requires a quick correction, call **tel:+1-855-235-0484** from the gate area and ask the phone agent to coordinate with the gate team directly.

What if United cannot fix my name in time for my flight?

If the correction cannot be completed before the flight departs, ask the agent about rebooking on the next available flight to the same destination while the name change is processed. Depending on the fare class, the ticket value may be preserved for same-day or next-day rebooking. Call **1.855.235.0484** to assess rebooking options.

For post-check-in name corrections, same-day name emergencies, or help with an invalid boarding pass after a name change, call 1 (855) 235-0484 — available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Have your United confirmation code and departure time ready.